

Remarks

General Remarks

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the examiner's recognition of the patentability of claims 35-43, 6-9, and 20-30.

Section 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-5, 19, and 31 Based on Keppers et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,017,163 ("Keppers")

All of the above-referenced claims call for a spigot, an element which is neither taught nor suggested by *Keppers*.

As will be appreciated by the examiner, the term "spigot", as used in the claims, must be given its plain meaning. In other words, the term must be read as it would be interpreted by those of ordinary skill in the art. See MPEP 2111.01, pages 2100-47 - 2100-49, MPEP Rev. I, Feb. 2003. The term "spigot", as commonly understood and interpreted by those of ordinary skill in the art, refers to a fixture for regulating the flow of a liquid. In further detail, the spigot, itself, includes a component, for example a valve, which starts, stops, and otherwise regulates the flow of a given liquid.

However, *Keppers* neither teaches nor suggests the spigot element called for in the applicant's claims. In the office action, the examiner suggested that *Keppers*' spray head 32 is a spigot. See Section 2 of the detailed action located on page 2 of the office action. However, as may be seen from the information presented above, this suggestion is not correct. Instead, the spray head 32, also referred to as a feed nozzle 32 (see Fig. 4), simply includes an apertured surfaced through which liquid floor finish is sprayed. See, for example, column 2, lines 32-35. However, the spray head 32 does not include a

component which starts, stops, and otherwise regulates the flow. See, for example, column 2, lines 52-55.

Because *Keppers* fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention, the applicant asks the examiner to withdraw the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1-5, 19, and 31.

Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 10-15 Based on *Keppers*

In the office action, the examiner suggested that *Keppers* has all the features of the claimed invention except the step of determining, prior to the guiding step, a path for the wheeled receptacle to take across the surface. See section 4 of the detailed action located on page 3 of the office action.

However, each of claims 10-15 calls for a spigot, an element which, as explained above, is neither taught nor suggested by *Keppers*. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the applicant requests that the examiner withdraw the section 103(a) rejection of claims 10-15.

Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 16-18 Based on *Keppers* in View of Biggs et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,920,944 ("*Biggs*")

In the office action, the examiner stated that *Keppers* has all the features of the claimed invention except that the floor tool handle includes a bend. See section 5 of the detailed action located on page 4 of the office action.

However, each of claims 16-18 calls for a spigot, an element which, as explained above, is neither taught nor suggested by *Keppers*. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the applicant requests that the examiner withdraw the section 103(a) rejection of claims 16-18.



Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 32-35 Based on *Keppers* in View of Robinson U.S. Patent No. 6,206,980 ("*Robinson*")

In the office action, the examiner stated that *Keppers* has all the features of the claimed invention except that the wheeled receptacle includes a fourth wheel.

However, each of claims 32-35 calls for a spigot, an element which, as explained above, is neither taught nor suggested by *Keppers*. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the applicant requests that the examiner withdraw the section 103(a) rejection of claims 32-35.

Conclusion

Given the remarks presented above, the applicant asks the examiner to allow all of the pending claims (claims 1-43). If any issues remain, the applicant asks the examiner to call the applicant's representative, thereby facilitating compact prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP

By: 

David E. Pritchard
Reg. No. 38,273

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP
2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2917
513-241-2324 (phone)
513-241-6234 (fax)

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